REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, is to a method of automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, including the steps of storing in advance a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other, detecting a transfer speed of the article, and spouting a plurality of the coloring agents of respective specific amount from a plurality of nozzles. Each nozzle has a coloring agent supply source connected therewith and a valve between the nozzle and the supply source, and the coloring agents are spouted toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in response to the detected transfer speed. Independent Claim 3, as amended, is to a device for automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, including storing means for storing a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other, detecting means for detecting a transfer speed of the article, and a plurality of nozzles. Each nozzle has a coloring agent supply source connected therewith and a valve between the nozzle and the supply source, for spouting the coloring agents of respective colors different from each other of respective specific amount toward the outer surface of the article, and control means are provided to make a plurality of the nozzles spout the coloring agent toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in

response to the transfer speed of the article detected by the detecting means.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Katzschner (U.S. 4,503,437); Claims 3-8 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a combination of Katzschner and Gemelli (U.S. 3,068,838); and Claim 9 as obvious in view of a combination of Katzschner, Gemelli and Traut et al. (U.S. 5,237,917). Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

With respect to method Claims 1 and 2, the Office Action asserts that Katzschner shows a method of automatically marking an article with a device in which the article is transferred in one direction by storing in advance a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a coloring agent of respective colors different from each other, applying color to the cable by a print head (column 2, lines 28-43), and spouting coloring agent of respective specific amounts toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern. It is also asserted that the reference teaches a coating liquid jet (structure SK in FIG. 1) for jetting the liquid and the detection means (DG in FIG. 1) for measuring the moving speed of the cable and a control means (SK and ST) for controlling the coating liquid jet based on the speed of the cable, as well as the article being an electric wire.

The Office Action further alleges that the combination of Katzschner and Gemelli teaches a device for marking as described in Claims 3-8 of the present application.

While the Katzschner reference appears to show a similar process and apparatus where plural nozzles are used to mare a substrate and where a means to monitor the speed of the substrate is used to control marking, the reference uses an ink printer that emits color spots or ink spots onto the moving substrate. Individual jets in the ink printer head are mounted in a matrix arrangement in rows and columns (col. 2, lines 25-27).

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to specify that the spouting means is a plurality of nozzles, each nozzle having a coloring agent supply source connecting therewith and a valve between the nozzle and the supply source. Such an arrangement is completely distinct from the teachings of Katzschner and not obvious in view of that reference.

The Gemelli reference merely shows circumferential placement of nozzles, and does not cure the deficiencies of the Katzschner reference.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1-9, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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